

50. With a view to holding the price line and ensuring equitable distribution of essential commodities, the Consumer Co-operative programme has been implemented in the State. Nine District whole-sale stores have been set up. 665 Rural Societies have been selected for distribution of consumer goods to the rural population. Consumer stores have been set up in 35 industrial establishments. Efforts to set up Consumer Co-operative Stores in all industrial establishments are being continued.

EDUCATION

51. Every effort is made within the Government's financial capacity, to expand educational facilities in the State. Since the beginning of the Third Plan, 87 Secondary Schools, 421 U. P. Schools and 179 L. P. Schools have been newly opened. The Third Plan targets of additional enrolment in schools are already nearly achieved and very likely they will be exceeded.

52. The facilities in many of the existing schools are far from satisfactory. The accommodation for class rooms and play grounds is not adequate in many of the schools. Enough furniture is not available in all the schools. An immediate solution of these and other allied problems involves the investment of huge amounts and hence can be attempted only in a limited way. Every year provision is being made for acquiring land, constructing or renovating buildings, purchasing furniture, library books and science equipments, and thus in the course of the next few years it will be possible to provide all the schools with necessary facilities.

53. The quality of education particularly of elementary education has to be improved. Children in the formative age group need special attention. Pre-school and primary education should be conducted in an atmosphere conducive to inculcating in the young minds a sense of discipline, a respect for peaceful and orderly life and devotion to noble ideals. This is a field in which constructive research work has to be done. It is proposed to establish a State Institute of Education utilising Central assistance to find out methods of improving the quality of elementary education. The scope of the CARE feeding programme has been extended and nearly 16 lakh children are benefited by the scheme now.

54. On the administrative side also there is need to reorganise the Department to enable it to tackle the complex problems of expansion. Administrative delays are to be obviated and a system of regular and effective inspection introduced. A Special Officer is now studying this question.

55. Besides granting permission to open new private schools, Government propose to open new schools next year also at some of the places where there is absolute necessity. The expenditure on this will be met from over-all savings under the plan schemes relating to general education.

56. Encouragement is given for the study of Sanskrit which is our language of culture, by instituting special scholarships. An incentive scheme for encouraging the education of Muslim girls is also being put through. It is also proposed to supply text books free of cost to poor and needy children in the State during the coming year. This has been made possible by the generous gift of paper by the Governments of Sweden and Australia for which we are grateful to them.